

S-27

1785-1798

Whitehall

Loretto vicinity

private

"Whitehall," located in Wicomico Hundred on the south side of Wicomico Creek, is a large part brick, part frame plantation house which reflects the late eighteenth-century trend toward more formal and spacious dwellings with its center stair hall and three well-finished rooms. The house exhibits an unusually high level of integrity, retaining eighty per cent of its historic exterior and interior fabric. Notable original features include the Flemish bond brick west gable end, and well-preserved Federal style interiors. In addition, an upstairs bedroom retains rare mid nineteenth-century mural paintings depicting antebellum costumes.

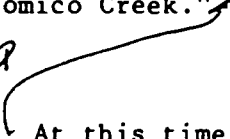
"Whitehall" stands on a tract of land formerly called "Taunton Deane" and was purchased by Benjamin Cottman from Francis Roberts on June 25, 1671 (SC/51). Although Benjamin Cottman is thought to have lived on the north side of Wicomico Creek, the property remained in the family for the next five generations. Later in the eighteenth century, Captain William Cottman was assessed for land,

situate on the south side of Wicomico Creek adjoining Mr. Thomas Hamilton, one dwelling house of wood, new, two story high with brick cellar and finished in good order, 46 feet by 20 with an ell of 16 by 16 feet, a cook house 16 by 16 feet, a stable 10 by 16, valued at \$700

Additional property included in the list of lands for Captain William Cottman mentions,

a parcel of land containing 400 acres considerable part of which is flat clay ground and valued at sixteen hundred dollars on which is exclusive of the dwelling house and house appurtenant, a quater old 24 by 16 feet, corn house 28 by 8 feet, an old dwelling house 24 by 20, kitchen 14 by 14, valued at forty dollars.

Captain William Cottman and his wife, Jane Dashiell, remained on the farm until 1815-1816 when both of them died. Jane Cottman outlived her husband by seven months and devised to her two daughters, Anna M. Bell and Araminta Maltida Adams, "The Dwelling Plantation of their father's situated on the south side of Wicomico Creek."

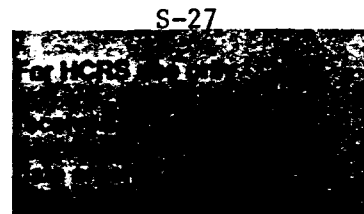
N. R.  At this time, the devisees directed that their holdings should be resurveyed, and on September 4, 1818, the total 617 acres were patented under the name of "Bellville."

The farm passed out of the Cottman family descendants in 1832 when William H. Bell sold to James and Mary Kent (GH 6/471). Since then the property has experienced nineteen subsequent owners, until the current owners bought the house and ten acres in 1962 (209/204).

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Bailey's Good Luck, Austin's Adventure
Bellville, The Creek Farm, The Bailey Farm, Taunton Deane

and/or common White Hall (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Cooley Road n/a not for publication

city, town Princess Anne ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Somerset code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name W. Miller White

street & number Route 1, White Hall

city, town Princess Anne n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Register of Deeds

street & number Somerset County Courthouse

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1983 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

S-27

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**Number of Resources****Contributing**

1
0
0
0
1

Noncontributing

4 buildings
0 sites
0 structures
0 objects
4 Total

Number of previously listed
National Register properties
included in this nomination: 0

Original and historic functions
and uses: residential

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

White Hall is a 2½ story, ell shaped frame house constructed c. 1785-1798 on the Wicomico Creek near Loretto in Somerset County, Maryland. The building rests on a partially excavated brick basement facing north and stands four unevenly-spaced bays wide. The gabled roof is clad in asphalt, and has three dormers (c.1900) on each slope. The west gable end is brick, laid in Flemish bond. A two-story enclosed porch spans the rear elevation. The interior is organized in a three-room plan, relatively uncommon on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, with a central stair hall opening onto a parlor on the right and a study and a dining room on the left. The overwhelming majority of original interior trim remains intact, including stair detail, paneled doors and wainscoting, mantels, and architraves. In addition, a rare mid-19th century mural painting depicting landscapes and period costumes survives in a second-floor room.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet White Hall Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

"White Hall" stands on the south side of the Wicomico Creek and at the end of the right fork of Cooley Road. Cooley Road intersects Polk Road approximately 2.5 miles west of Loretto, Maryland.

Facing north, the c. 1785-1798 two-and-a-half story four bay frame house rests on a partially excavated brick basement and is covered by a medium pitched asphalt tile roof. One of the most distinctive features of this three-room house is its Flemish bond brick west gable end wall. The rest of the ell-shaped 18th-century house is uniformly sheathed with beaded weatherboards.

The north or water facade is divided into four unevenly spaced bays with the entrance occupying the second bay from the left. Early 12/12 window sash survive on the first floor and 9/6 sash on the second; however, the exterior surrounds have been stripped of any molding. Each window has a pair of paneled shutters. A modillioned cornice with dentiled bed molding stretches across the base of the roof. Three c. 1900 gabled dormers with 6/6 sash pierce both the front and rear roof slopes. A gable roofed front stoop was also added around the turn-of-the 20th century.

The west gable end is laid in Flemish bond above a projecting water table. A single 9/6 sash window with segmental arch pierces the end wall to the left of the chimney pile, while two 6/6 sash flank the stack on the second floor. Finally a pair of 2/2 sash windows light the attic. The chimney rises past molded bargeboards and is finished with a corbelled cap. A gable front cellar entrance is located to the right of the chimney pile and appears as an original 18th-century feature.

The east gable end is less complex with a single 9/9 sash window on the first floor and a 6/6 sash on the second. A small 2/2 attic window is located to the right of the stack.

The rear elevation is largely covered by a two-story closed-in porch except for the single bay end elevation of the ell-shaped house. Attached to the east side of the ell is a c. 1900 two-story three bay by one-room service wing. The end bay of the service wing was previously a two-story screened porch but has been closed in for the most part. A small brick stove stack rises from the wing between the second and third bay.

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National Park Service**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet White Hall Somerset County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The plan of White Hall is not unique on the Eastern Shore but is less common than other house forms. A center hall divides three rooms; one to the right (parlor) and two to the left (study and dining room). The 9' 10" wide hall contains a quarter-turn stair with a turned newel post topped by a ball finial. Three turned balusters to each tread support a molded handrail. The stringer is decorated with a scrolled decoration and the soffit below is paneled. A four-panel door opens into the cellar stair. In addition, the staircase as well as the entire hall has flush paneled wainscoting. Crossetted door surrounds frame six-panel doors and open into the adjacent parlor and study.

The parlor measures 19' by 16' 4" and is finished with paneled wainscoting and dentiled cornice molding. The front two windows as well as the back French doors (originally windows before porch) are framed by ovolo molded surrounds which abut knee-high paneled pilasters. The chimney breast is fitted with a Federal style mantel that consists of paneled pilasters, reeded frieze molding, projecting frieze blocks, and stepped and broken shelf. Small four-paned doors on each side are framed by crossetted surrounds and open into storage closets. The right closet is lighted by the 9/6 sash window.

The study has paneled wainscoting as well as a Federal period mantel on a corner hearth. The mantel has paneled pilasters under a frieze molding with guilloche detailing. The frieze is marked by three raised tablets. A stepped and molded shelf is broken at each end and enriched with a dentil molding under the cornice.

The dining room is located directly behind the study and has a corner fireplace as well. At the time of the other alterations to the house, this room was enlarged slightly at the back. The hearth wall was also rebuilt, but the early mantel survives. A crossetted surround frames the fireplace and supports a plain frieze with ogee curved ends. The mantel shelf consists of several hollows and rounds along with a Greek key row. The crossetted overmantel is a later addition.

The second floor is finished in less elaborate fashion with plastered walls and standard door and window moldings. Most distinctive is the rear bedroom above the dining room which retains antebellum murals; hoop skirted dresses and period costumes adorn each character. Included are detailed landscapes as well as garlands that frame the door and window openings.

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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National Park Service**

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date entered

White Hall

Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland

Item number

7

Page

3

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The attic is finished with lath and plaster, but one section of the common rafter roof system is exposed, and the roof nailers are fastened with wrought nails.

The interior of the c. 1900 addition involves standard treatment of doors and windows and does not include any unusual feature.

Surrounding the house is a generous shaded lawn with a mixture of evergreens, hardwoods and boxwood. A small brick and frame utility building stands next to the kitchen entrance. Farther from the house and along the entrance lane is a c. 1900-1940 gambrel roofed barn and two implement buildings, which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

8. Significance

S-27

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1785-1798 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: C

Applicable Exception: n/a

Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

White Hall is significant for its architecture. A large plantation house constructed ca. 1785-1798 in rural Somerset County, Maryland, it reflects the late 18th century trend toward more spacious dwellings than the smaller, less elaborate houses which characterized agricultural holdings on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore earlier in the century. The house exhibits an unusually high level of integrity, retaining over 80 per cent of its historic exterior and interior fabric. Notable original features include the Flemish-bond brick gable end wall and the three-room plan divided by a center hall; these features are unusual among houses of the period in Somerset County, and on Maryland's Eastern Shore in general. In addition, an upstairs bedroom retains rare mid-19th century mural paintings depicting pre-Civil War costumes.

For History and Supporting Documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. 4.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

White Hall

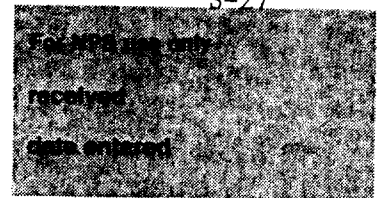
Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland

Item number

8

Page

4



HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

"White Hall," located in Wicomico Hundred and on the south side of the Wicomico Creek, stands on a tract of land known as "Taunton Deane" and purchased by Benjamin Cottman from Francis Roberts on June 25, 1671.¹ Although Benjamin Cottman is thought to have lived on the north side of the Wicomico Creek, the property remained in the family for the next five generations. William Cottman received part of "Taunton Deane" from his father Benjamin Cottman in 1733.² This transfer must have been conveyed early in William's life for he was listed in 1798 as Captain William Cottman and assessed for land,

"situate on the south side of Wicomico Creek adjoining Mr. Thomas Hamilton, one dwelling house of wood, new, two story high with brick cellar and finished in good order, 46 feet by 20 with an ell of 16 by 16 feet, a cook house 16 x 16 feet, a smoke house 12 x 12 feet, a milk house 8 x 10 feet, a stable 10 x 16 feet, valued at \$700."³

Additional property included in the list of lands for Captain William Cottman mentions,

"a parcel of land containing 400 acres considerable part of which is flat clay ground and valued at sixteen hundred dollars on which is exclusive the dwelling house and house appurtenant a quarter old 24 by 16 feet, corn house 28 by 8 feet, an old dwelling house 24 by 20 feet, kitchen 14 by 14 feet, valued at forty dollars."⁴

Captain William Cottman and his wife, Jane Dashiell, remained on the farm until 1815-1816 when both of them died. Jane Cottman outlived her husband by seven months and devised to her two daughters, Anna M. Bell and Araminta Matilda Adams, "The Dwelling Plantation of their father's situated on the south side of the Wicomico Creek."⁵

At this time, the devisees directed that their holdings should be resurveyed and on September 4, 1818, the total 617 acres were patented under the name of "Bellville."⁶

The farm passed out of the Cottman family descendants in 1832 when William H. Bell sold to James and Mary Kent.⁷ Since then the property has experienced nineteen subsequent owners. The present grantees bought ten acres surrounding the house in 1962.⁸

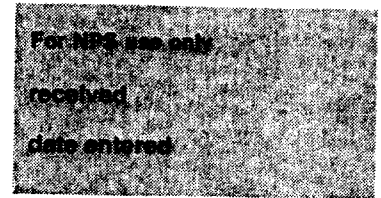
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

White Hall

Continuation sheet Somerset County, Maryland Item number 8 and 9

Page 5



Footnotes:

- ¹ Somerset County Deed Book, SC/51, June 25, 1671.
- ² Somerset County Deed Book, AZ/92.
- ³ 1798 Federal Assessment - Particular list of Dwelling Houses - Wicomico Hundred - Captain William Cottman.
- ⁴ 1798 Federal Assessment - Particular list of Lands of Captain William Cottman.
- ⁵ Somerset County Wills, E B 23/243, July 30, 1816.
- ⁶ Warrant to Resurvey, CG 3/26, Hall of Records, Annapolis.
- ⁷ Somerset County Deed Book, GH 6/471, November 17, 1832.
- ⁸ Somerset County Deed Book, 209/204, April 16, 1962.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1798 Federal Assessment - Particular List of Dwelling Houses - Wicomico Hundred - Captain William Cottman.
- 1798 Federal Assessment - Particular List of Lands - Wicomico Hundred - Captain William Cottman.
- Somerset County Deed Books - Clerk of Circuit Court, Somerset County Courthouse.
- Somerset County Wills, Register of Wills, Somerset County Courthouse.
- Torrence, Clayton Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore. 1966.
- Warrant to Resurvey, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

9. Major Bibliographical References

S-27

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10 acres (approximately)Quadrangle name Eden, Maryland 1942Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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4	2	3	5	4	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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4	3	6	7	6	0
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4	2	3	5	1	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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4	3	6	5	8	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property, approximately ten acres, includes the landscaped setting for the resource and preserves its historic orientation to the Wicomico Creek. Boundaries are depicted on the attached map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart - Architectural Historian

organization Somerset County Historical Trust date 19 October 1983

street & number 424 North Somerset Avenue telephone (Home) 301-651-1094

city or town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

John M. Hill 5-2-84

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

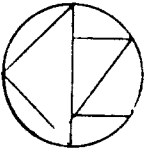
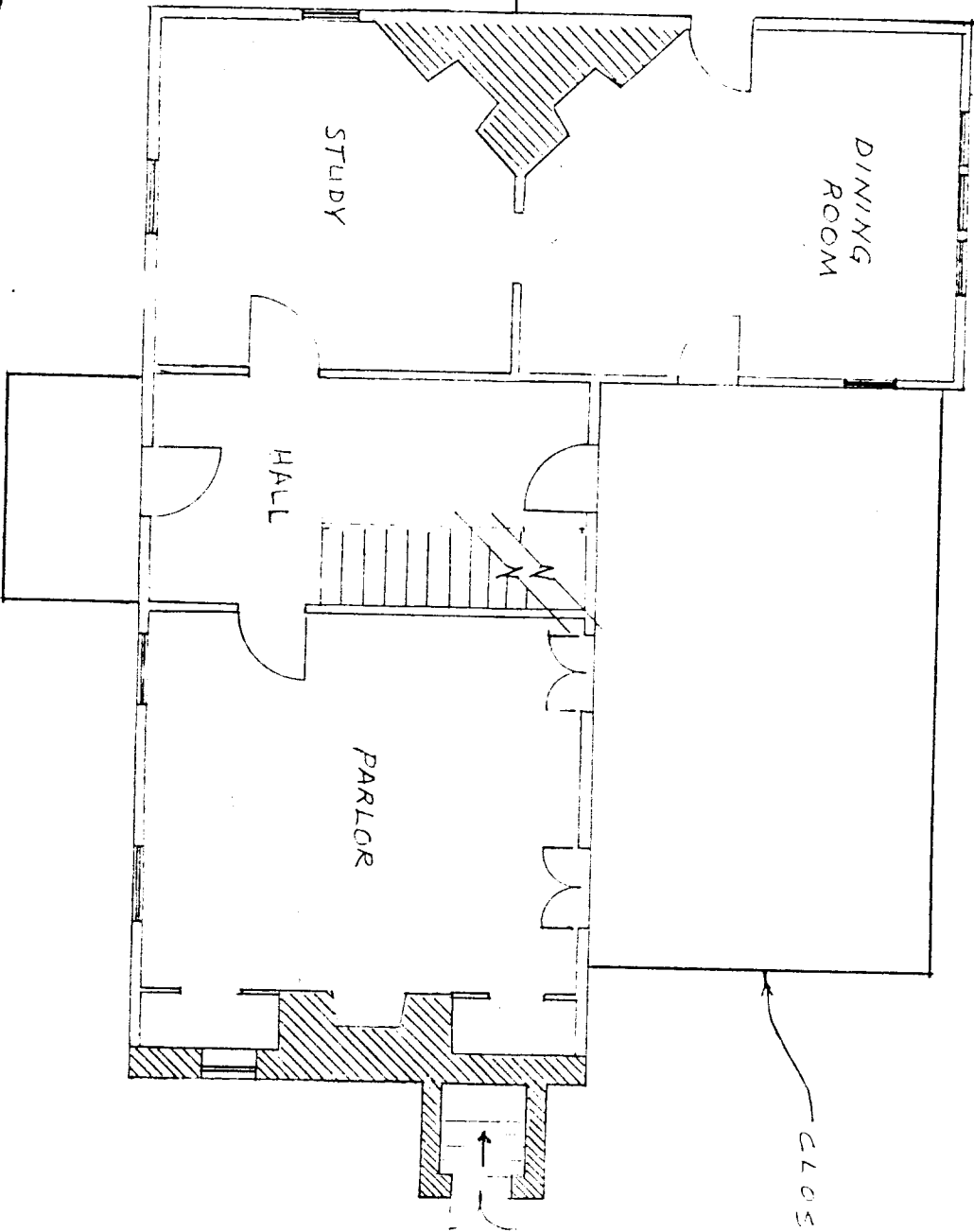
For HCPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is eligible for the National Register	
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

2660275204

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Somerset TOWN Polk Landing VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. Miller White PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Flemish bond, clapbo. NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 2. NAME Whitehall S-27 DATE OR PERIOD c. 1760 STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no <p>This is a large house constructed with a board front and back and brick ends. As such it is rather unusual for frame and brick combinations were usually confined to smaller buildings.</p> <p>Whitehall is 2 1/2 storeys with an A-roof. It is 4 bays wide. The door occupies the second bay from the left on the front of the house. All of the first storey windows are 9/9, while those on the second storey are 9/6. There are 3 dormers on the front roof. There is a large chimney built into each end wall of the house.</p> <p>The front and rear sides of the house are clapboarded with wide beaded edged boards while both ends are of Flemish bond brick with random glazed headers and stretchers. The windows on the brick ends have segmental arches.</p> <p>Whitehall is a very attractive and unusual house. Its proportions are fine and its construction makes it well-worthy of note.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior <div style="text-align: right;">well-maintained</div>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman DATE OF RECORD August 1, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

S-27

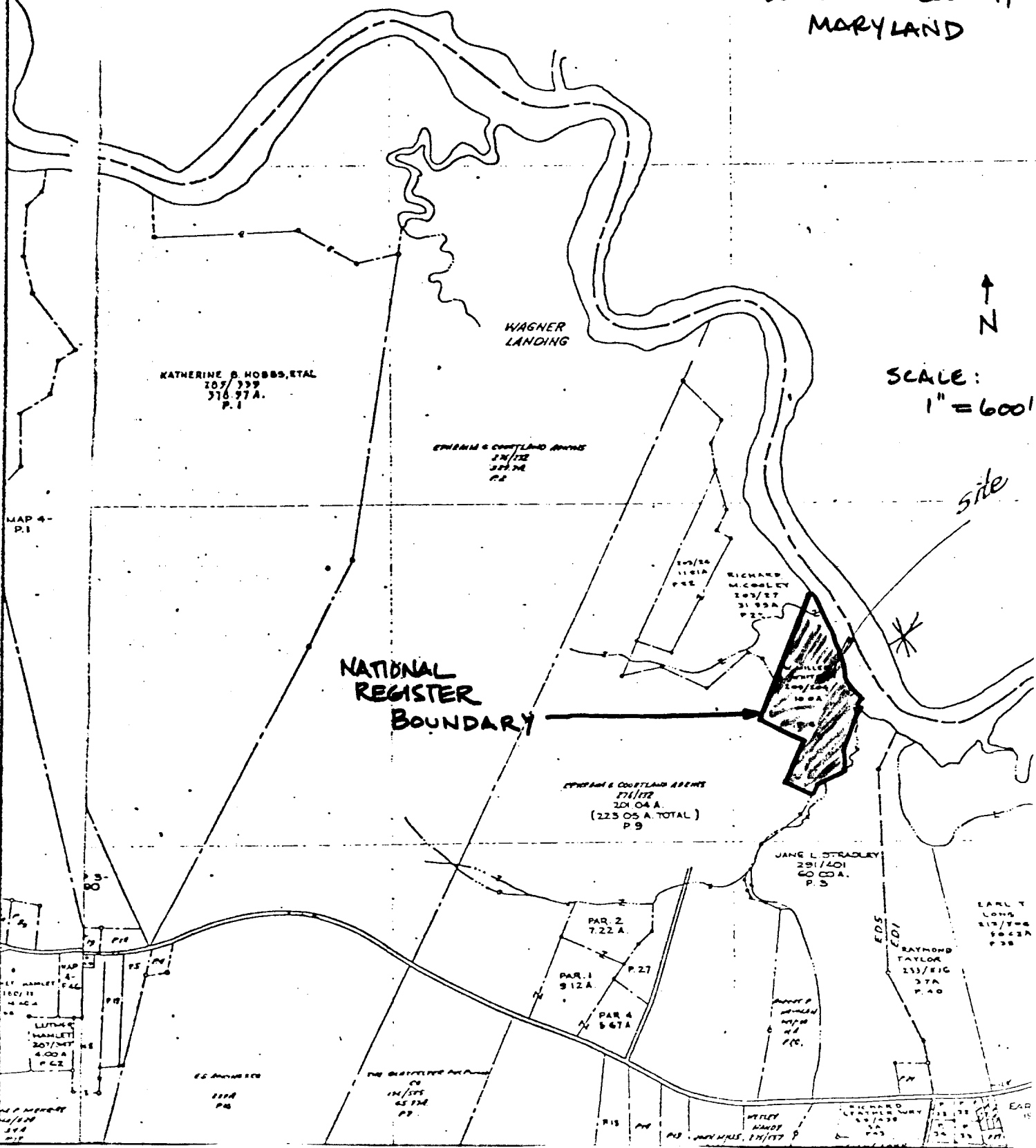


WHITE HALL
c. 1785-1795

NK LORETTO,
Scmgy of County,
M

1/8" = 1'0" PBT

S-27
WHITE HALL
SOMERSET COUNTY,
MARYLAND



S-27
WHITE HALL
SOMERSET
COUNTY,
MARYLAND

A: 18-436900-
4235420

B: 18-436760-
4235170

C: 18-436580-
4235260

D: 18-436780-
4235700

17°30'

4238

4237

4236

160 000
FEET

4235

4234

38°15'

75°45'

Polk Road

Wagner
Landing

Creek

Back

WICOMICO CO
SOMERSET CO

Polk
Landing

Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Published for civil use by the Geological Survey
 Control by USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1942 and planetable surveys 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks
 zone 18, shown in blue

(MONIE)
 5860 III NE

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7½°
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UTM GRID AND 1942 MAGNE
 DECLINATION AT CENTER



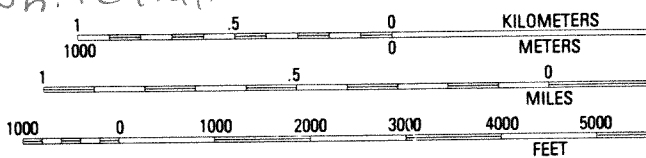
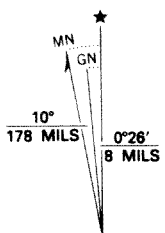
T '36 '37 42'30" '39 (PRINCESS ANNE) 5860 II NW

United States Geological Survey
NOS/NOAA

S-27 White Hall

SCALE 1:24 000

Derived from aerial photograph taken
by photogrammetric methods
established 1974. Field checked 1975



Service topographic map dated 1942
Foot grid ticks: Maryland coordinate
(normal conic)
Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
Datum
North American Datum 1983

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH
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OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEA

EDEN Quad
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP A
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

north elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

south elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

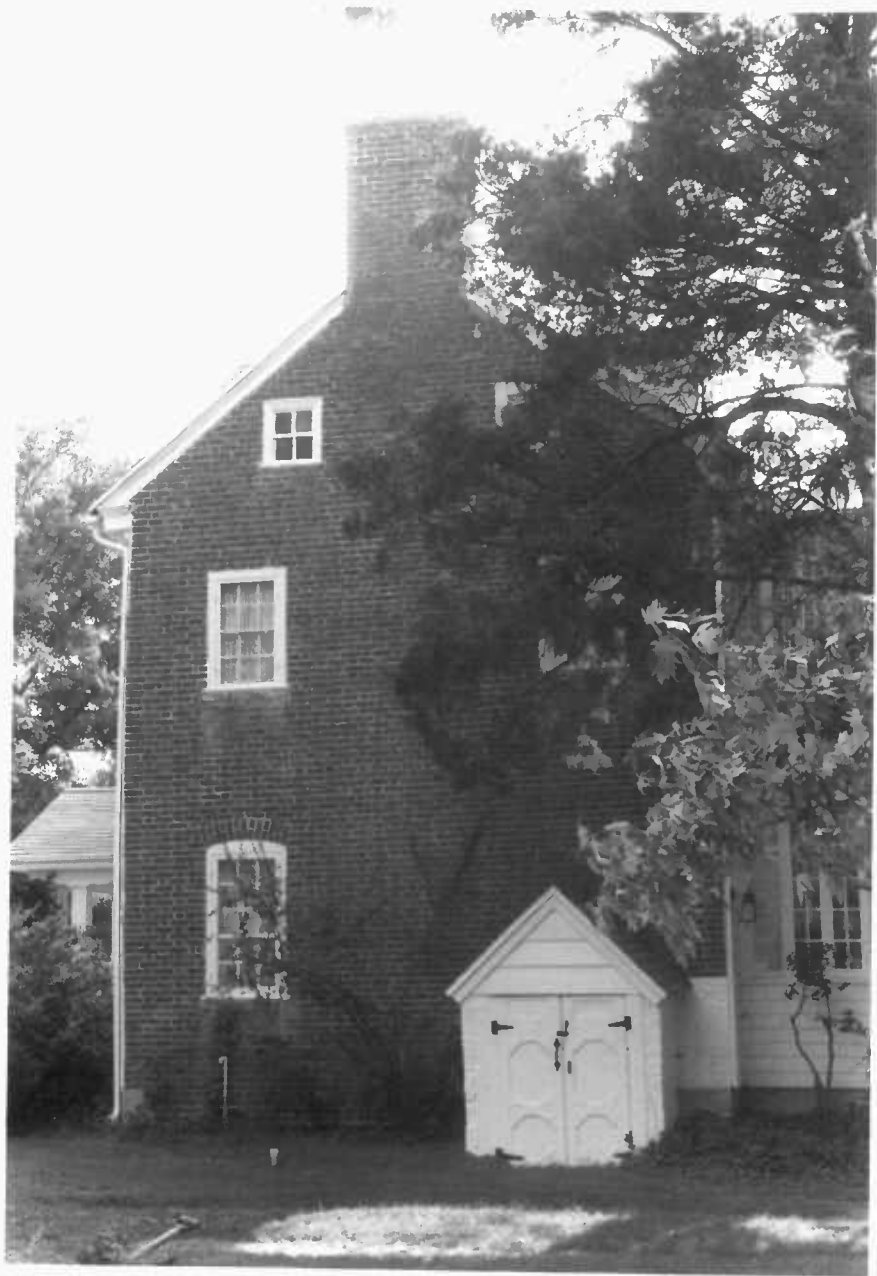
S-27

near Loretto

southeast elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

west elevation

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

study mantel

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

bedroom murals

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall"

S-27

near Loretto

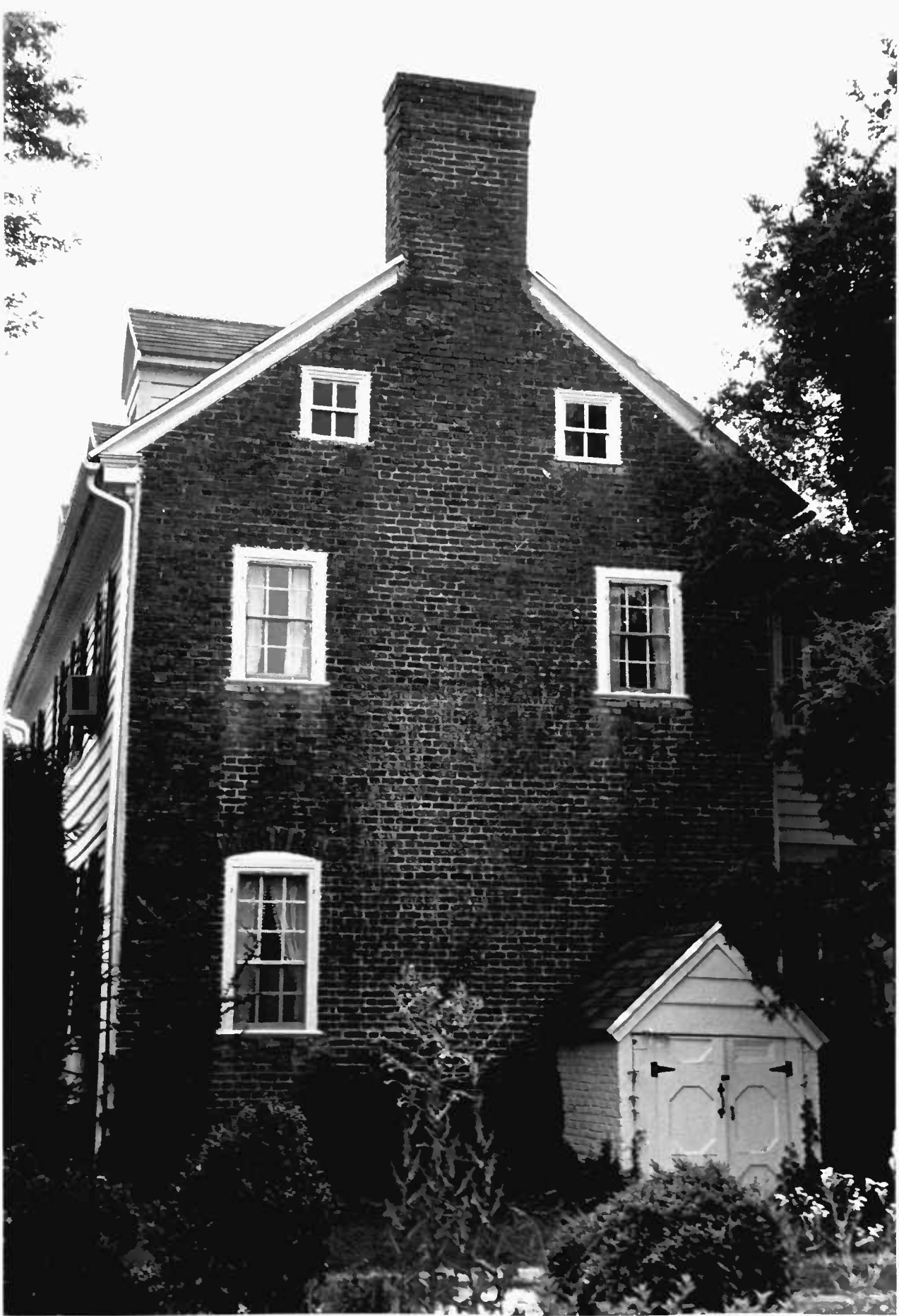
dining room mantel

Photographer-Paul Touart

September 1983



"White Hall S-27
near Loretto
stair
Photographer-Paul Touart
September 1983





S-25

Leave space before

the last word

on line

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH